



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

## Linking Food Safety with Health and Nutrition: Insights and Priorities



### Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Safety

Feb. 24, 2021



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## WELCOME

Kenny Christianson from Cornell IT is providing technical support today, so please reach out using the chat function if you're experiencing technical difficulties.

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Please submit questions for our panelists using the Q&A function.



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## MODERATOR



### **Haley Oliver**

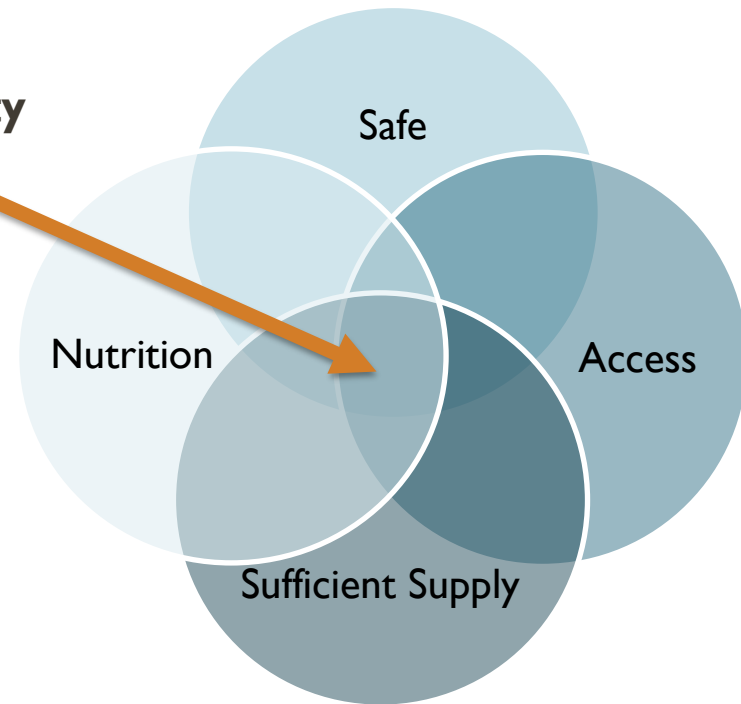
Director of the Feed the Future  
Innovation Lab for Food Safety

Professor of Food Science  
Purdue University



## CONNECTING FOOD SAFETY & FOOD SECURITY

**Food Security**



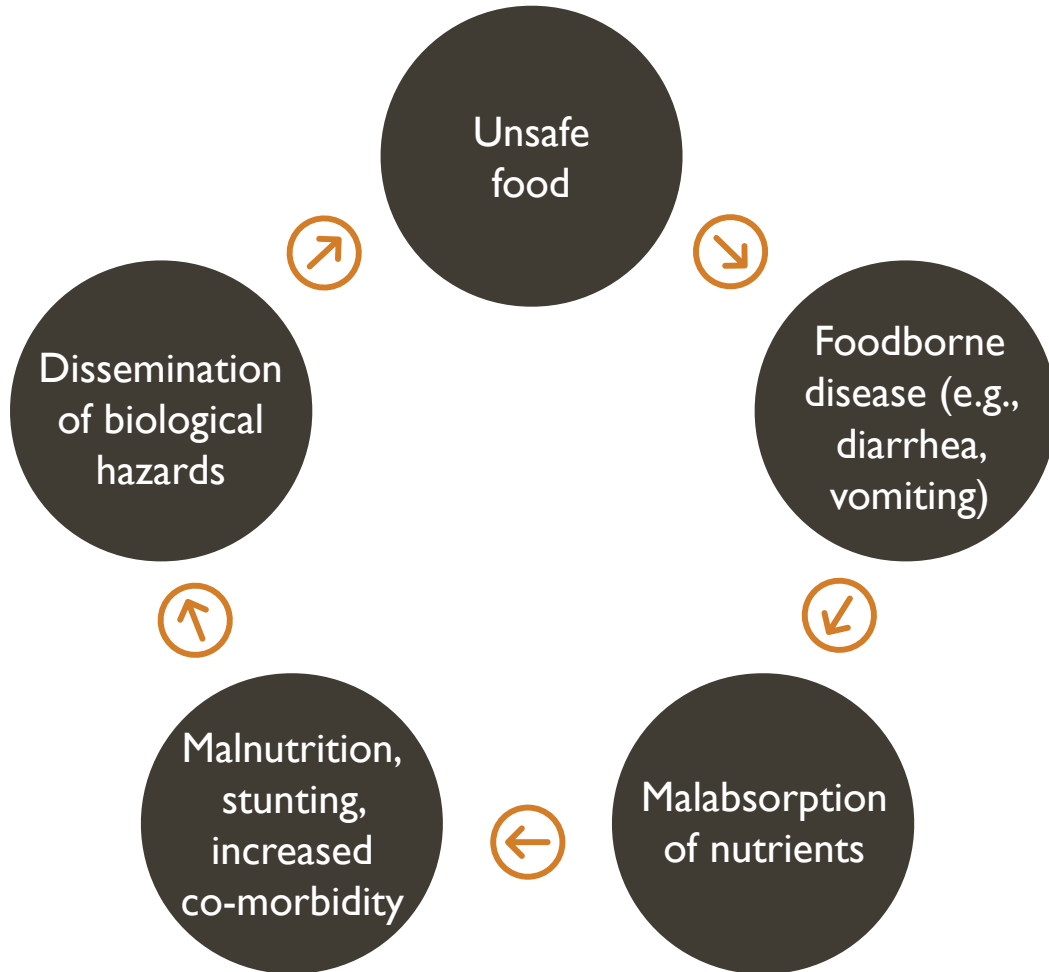
Food security is achieved when foods are safe, nutritious, accessible, and available





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Unsafe food creates a cycle of disease and malnutrition, particularly affecting infants, young children, elderly and sick



## AGENDA



**Shanda Steimer – 10 min.**

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)



**Patrick Webb – 10 min.**

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Nutrition  
Tufts University



**Prabhu Pingali – 10 min.**

Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition  
Cornell University



**Jessie Vipham – 10 min.**

Kansas State University



**Panel discussion – 30 min.**



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## SPEAKER



### **Shanda Steimer**

Director of the Center for Nutrition  
Bureau for Resilience and Food Security  
United States Agency for International  
Development (USAID)



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## SPEAKER



### **Patrick Webb**

Director of the Feed the Future  
Innovation Lab for Nutrition

Alexander McFarlane Professor  
at the Friedman School of Nutrition  
Tufts University



## Linking Food Safety with Health and Nutrition

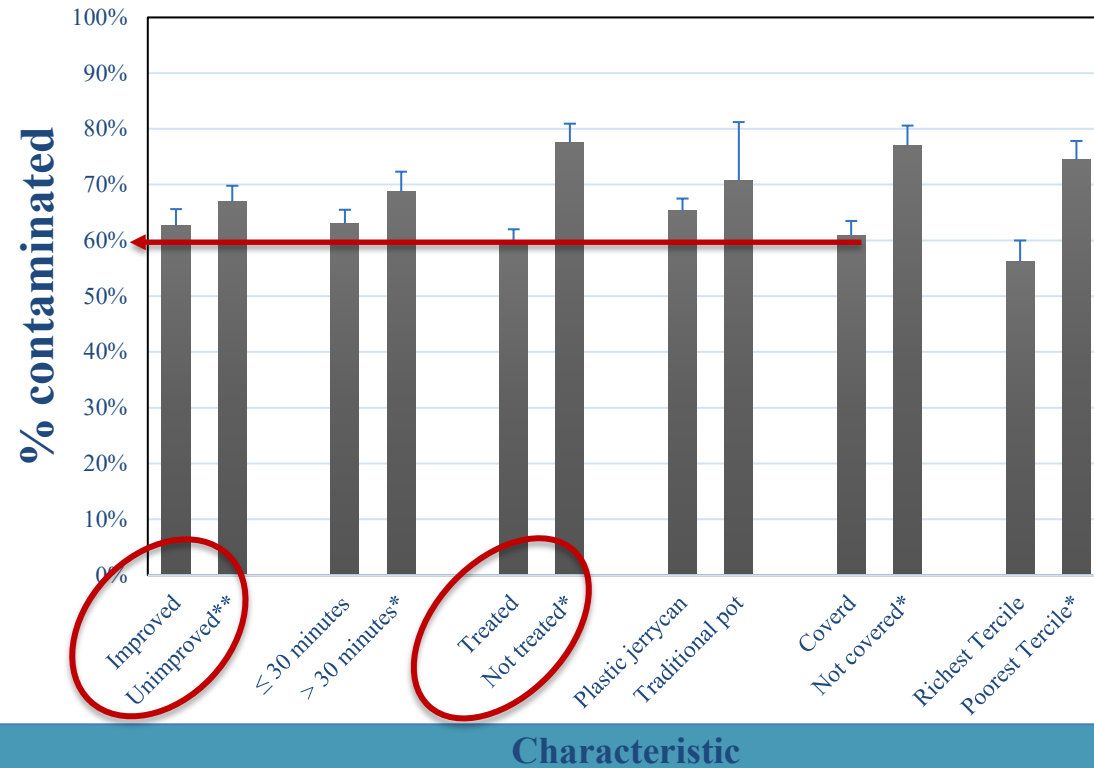
# Food Safety from a Nutrition Perspective

Patrick Webb  
February 2021

## Water safety matters for health *and* nutrition

- *E. coli* contamination of 'treated', 'covered' or 'improved' water sources almost as bad as unimproved.

Birth cohort in SW Uganda [n = 2,022 households]



## Water safety matters for health *and* nutrition

- More *E. coli* linked to more EED in child.
- More EED in child associated with stunting and wasting.

### SW Uganda birth cohort (n=365 children <5y)

Outcome	Unadjusted linear regression models	Adjusted linear regression models
Growth at birth		
Stunted (n = 90)	1.88 (1.23, 2.89)*	1.68 (1.22, 2.32)*
Underweight (n = 9)	0.98 (0.35, 2.76)	0.78 (0.28, 2.18)
Growth at 6 months		
Stunted (n = 86)	2.31 (1.40, 3.81)*	1.70 (1.21, 2.37)*
Underweight (n = 25)	1.70 (0.77, 3.74)	1.35 (0.61, 3.00)
Growth at 9 months		
Stunted (n = 102)	1.66 (0.94, 2.93)	1.34 (0.88, 2.02)
Underweight (n = 31)	2.36 (1.49, 3.72)*	1.81 (0.92, 3.54)
Growth at L:M test (12–16 months)		
Stunted (n = 135)	1.67 (1.10, 2.53)*	1.38 (0.88, 2.18)
Underweight (n = 34)	1.29 (0.81, 2.05)	1.10 (0.61, 1.95)

Cells present odds ratio (OR) and 95% confidence interval, \* *P*-value < 0.05

Nipah virus spillover to humans from bats



Raw date palm sap

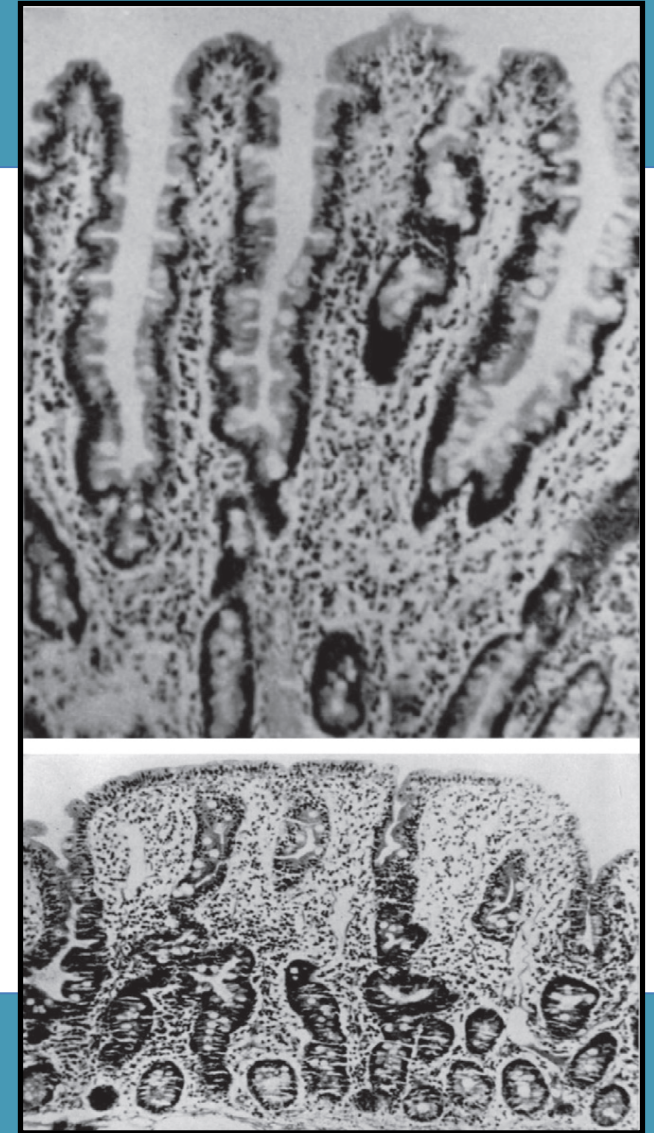




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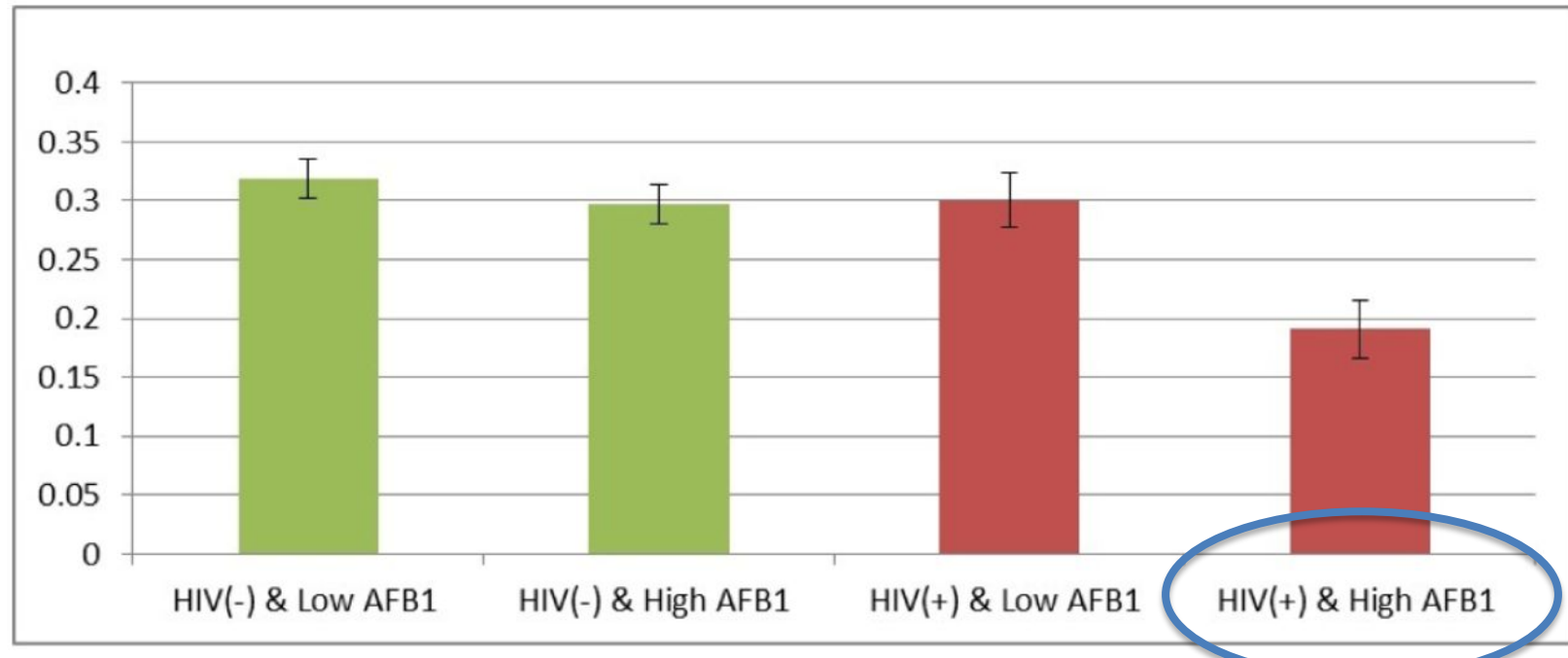
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- Globally 144 million children still stunted.
- Suggestion of link to mycotoxins.
- Access to poor quality diet = more intake of mycotoxins
- Food safety is therefore a major concern for nutrition



## Rate of weight gain (kg/week) during pregnancy

GULU UGANDA (N=246)



Source: Barnabas Kahiira Natamba et al. FASEB Journal 2016;30:432.6

## MATERNAL AFLATOXIN AND BIRTH OUTCOMES

	Uganda (N=3200)	Uganda (N=220)	Nepal (N=1675)
Dependent Variables	$\beta$ estimate / OR	$\beta$ estimate / OR	$\beta$ estimate / OR
Birth weight (kg)	<b>-0.023 (0.009)**</b>	<b>-0.07**</b>	NS
Weight-for-age Z score	<b>-0.054 (0.018)***</b>	<b>-0.16**</b>	NS
Small for Gest. Age (%)	<b>1.1408**</b>	NA	<b>1.13**</b>
Stunting at birth (%)	<b>1.0911**</b>	NS	NS
Head Circumference	NS	<b>-0.07**</b>	NA
Head Circum./age	NS	<b>-0.23**</b>	NA

OR = Odds Ratio

\*p<0.05, \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001

## AFBI AND CHILD GROWTH (3 MONTHS - 22 MONTHS) IN NEPAL

	Length (cm) $\beta$	LAZ $\beta$	Stunting Odds Ratio
(Ln) aflatoxin BI-lysine adduct <sup>1</sup>	-0.19 (-0.29, -0.09)**	-0.05 (-0.09, -0.02)**	1.34 (1.02, 1.77)*
(Ln) aflatoxin BI-lysine adduct/kg weight <sup>2</sup>	-0.26 (-0.33, -0.18)**	-0.08 (-0.11, -0.05)**	1.27 (1.02, 1.59)*
<p>Significant negative associations between AFBI concentrations, length, LAZ and odds of stunting.</p> <p>*p&lt;0.05, ** p&lt;0.01, *** p&lt;0.001</p>			

Andrews-Trevino et al. (2020) "Aflatoxin exposure and child nutrition: measuring anthropometric and long-bone growth over time in Nepal" – Submitted to AJCN



## Summary of Findings

### Birth Cohort: **Uganda**

- i. Blood aflatoxin in pregnant women significantly negative effect on a) gestational weight gain, b) weight-for-age at birth, c) stunting at birth, and d) head circumference at birth.
- ii. Maternal HIV/AIDS infection appears to exacerbate these effects on pregnancy outcomes.

### Birth Cohort: **Nepal**

- i. Even low aflatoxin levels in pregnant women's blood significantly linked to low SGA.
- ii. Levels rise as a child ages, regardless of income, education or location.



## CONCLUSIONS

- *A clean food* environment matters at least as much as clean water.
- New evidence now directly implicates mycotoxins with poor birth outcomes and subsequent child stunting.
- Food safety represents a major contribution to nutrition, not only to health and consumer trust.



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GERALD J. AND DOROTHY R.  
Friedman School of  
Nutrition Science and Policy



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## SPEAKER



### **Prabhu Pingali**

Director of the Tata-Cornell Institute for  
Agriculture and Nutrition

Professor in the Charles H. Dyson School  
of Applied Economics and Management  
Cornell University

Tata  
Cornell  
Institute

# Food Safety in India

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**Prabhu Pingali**

**Professor Applied Economics & Director of the Tata-Cornell Institute**

**Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management**

**Cornell University, Ithaca USA**

February 24, 2021



Cornell University

# Food safety in the Indian context

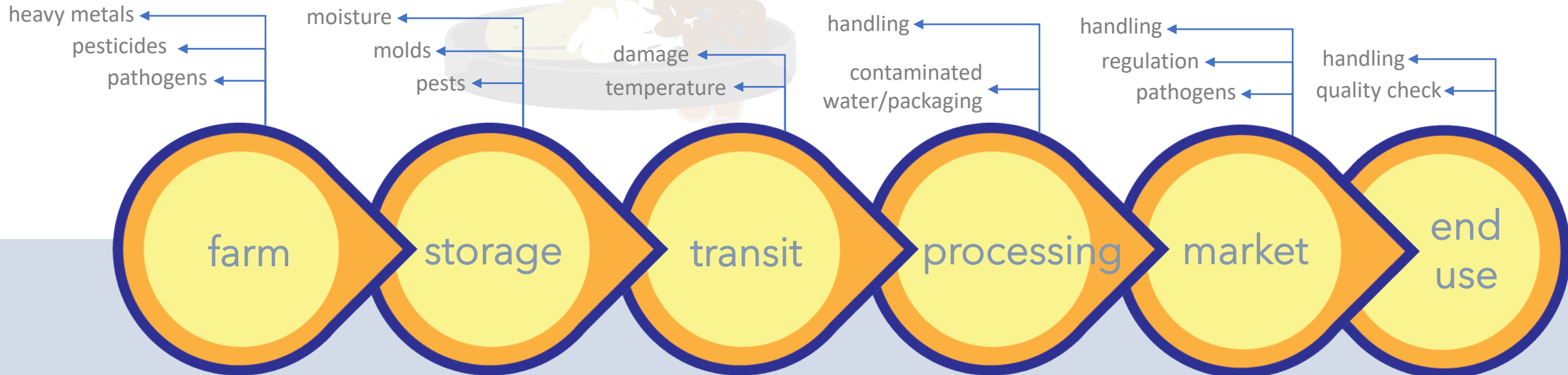
- **Foodborne illness is widespread**, with ~100 million cases in India annually (this is a conservative estimate, as these illnesses are under-reported)
- By 2030, **one out of every nine people in India** will fall sick with a foodborne disease (Kristkova et al., 2017)
- **At population-scale**: Risk increases with wealth (higher GDP → more meat/perishables consumption → more foodborne disease)
- **Within populations**: Poor food safety practices are associated with low incomes and poverty (Reddy et al., 2020)

I need fruits, vegetables, and animal protein to feed my family!



## there are numerous risks throughout the value chain

- India's growing middle class is increasing the demand for perishables
- policies and practices required to ensure that safe food reaches the consumer are underdeveloped
- food safety risks persist throughout the value chain from farm to urban consumer



# Major food safety threats in India

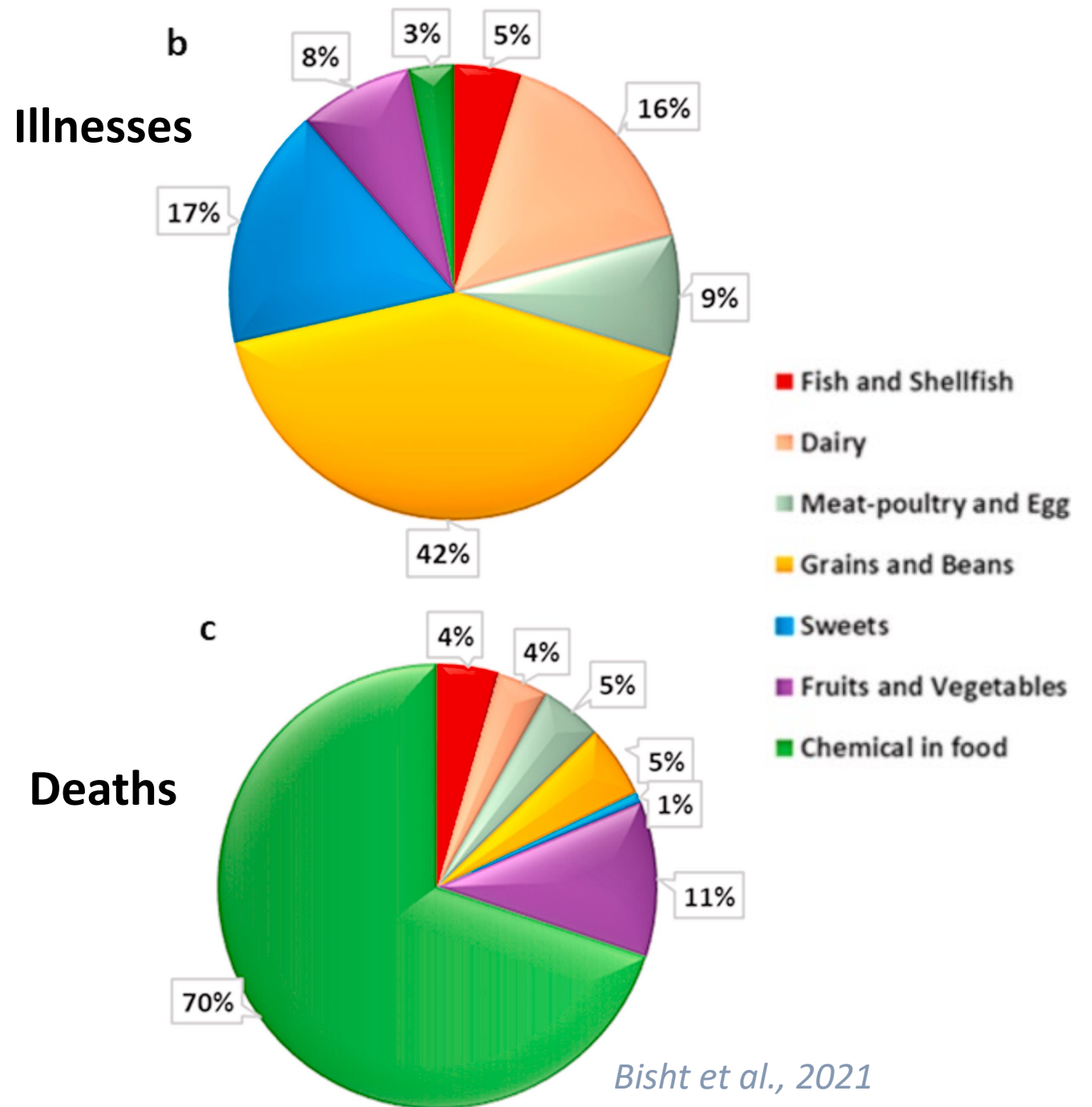
- **Bacteria** (*E. coli*, *Salmonella*, etc.; Khare et al., 2018)
- **Pesticide residues** (Srivastava et al., 2010; Gill et al., 2020)
- **Heavy metals** (Sharma et al., 2018; Marshall et al., 2003)
- **Mycotoxins** (Groopman et al., 2014; Wenndt et al., 2020; Bhat et al., 1997)



# Linkages between food safety and nutrition

- **Diarrheal disease burden is high**
  - Caused by pathogenic microbes in food and water
  - Major cause of malnutrition and mortality in India (Nilima et al., 2018)
- **Environmental Enteropathy (EE) is an emerging concern**
  - Exposure to toxins in the environment, including via food
  - EE associated with growth impairment and intestinal permeability in India and elsewhere (McKay et al., 2010)
- **Trade-off between safe and nutritious foods**
  - *Example:* aquaculture fish can be a good source of protein for the poor in India, but also contribute heavy metal toxins to the diet (Marriott et al., 2020)

# Sources of foodborne disease in India



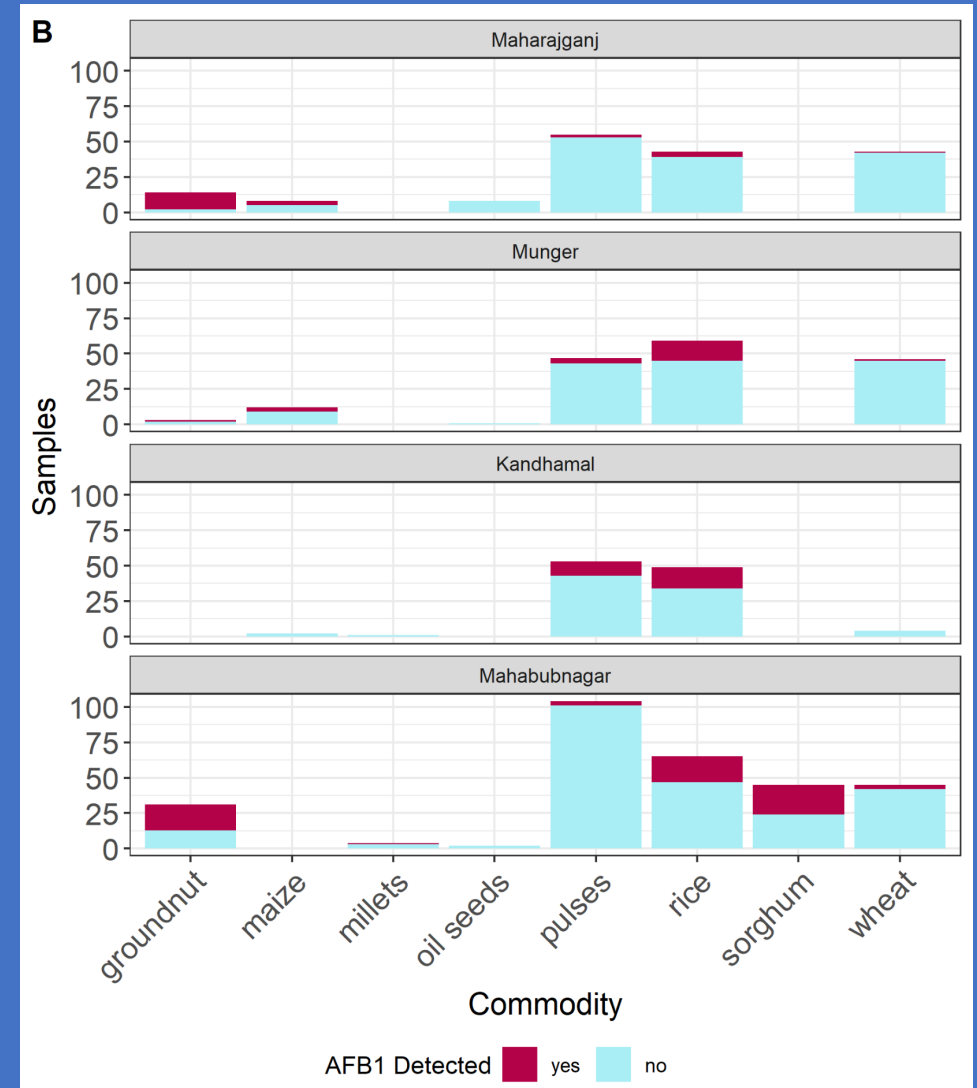
# Mycotoxin case study reveals the importance of food systems thinking

- Certain crops such as maize, groundnut, and millet are more prone to contamination than others
- Some communities' diets are substantially riskier than others
- The consumption of unsafe foods can be variable across seasons

**Thus: the risk of food safety-related health and nutrition adversity is shouldered disproportionately by some vulnerable sub-populations**

- Surveillance and regulatory systems must adequately identify and address these food system dynamics

*Aflatoxin detection rates across stored food items in four Indian food systems*



# Food safety regulation in India

- **Food Safety & Standard Authority of India (FSSAI)** is the major regulatory body
  - Emerging from the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006
  - Regulates many contaminants associated with foodborne illness
- Current local “regulated markets” or *mandis* are not adequate for preserving **quality** or enabling traceability of safety concerns (Deininger & Sur, 2007)
- **Smallholder farmers engaged in self-provisioning have virtually no access to regulatory services** or food safety-related information

# Necessary actions to reduce food safety risk across the value chain



good agronomy and varieties

effective, accessible post-harvest technology

develop cold chain systems

compliant practices and facilities

regulation and quality premiums

demand safe, high-quality produce

farm

storage

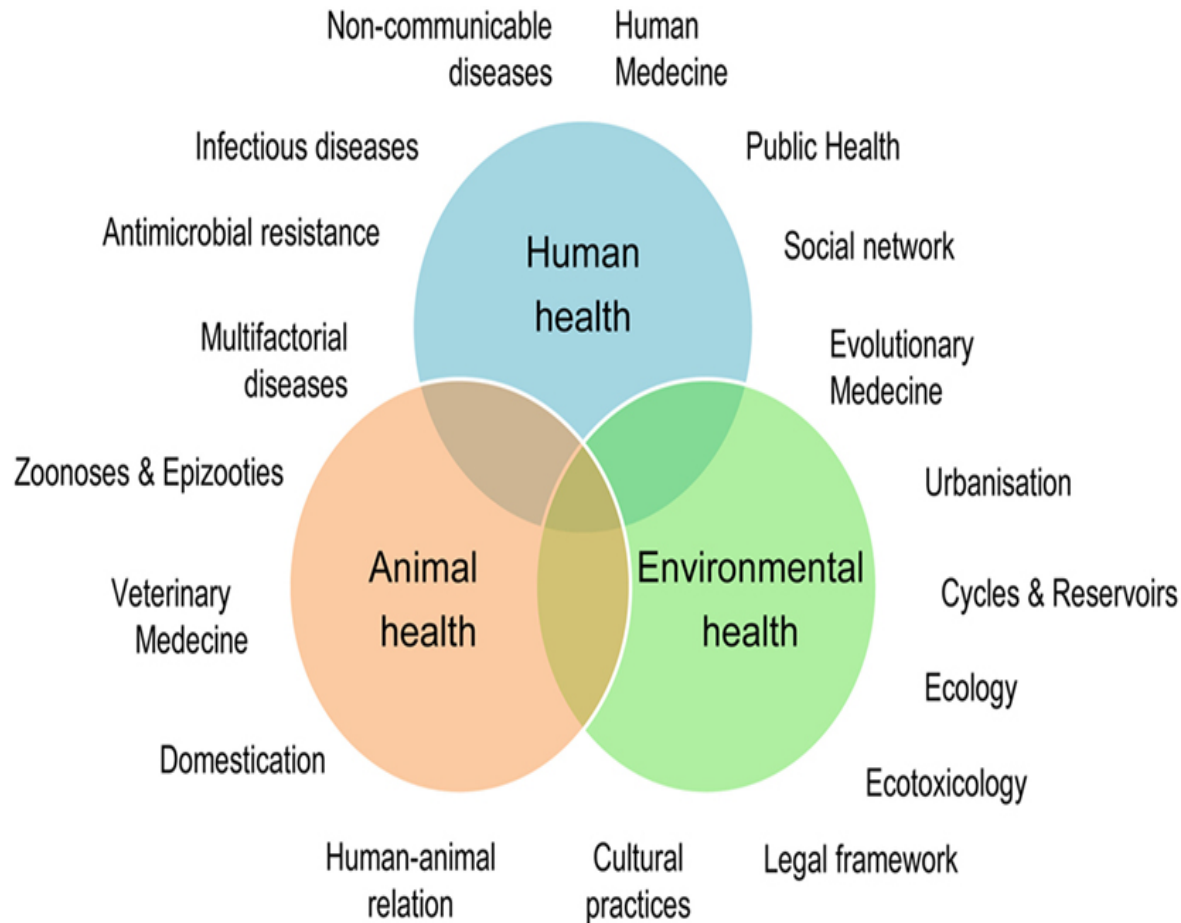
transit

processing

market

end use

# A “one health” approach to improving food safety



*Destoumieux-Garzon et al., 2018*

- Improve **plant health and agronomy** to reduce populations of pathogenic and toxigenic micro-organisms
- Improve **animal production and distribution systems**, along with veterinary medicine, to prevent disease outbreaks
- Improve environmental and infrastructural **constraints to proper food storage and hygiene**
- Improve **messaging and awareness at the grassroots level** and throughout value chains to boost detection and prevention



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## SPEAKER



### **Jessie Vipham**

Assistant Professor of Food Microbiology  
and Food Safety  
Kansas State University



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## Nutritious Food for All? The Role of Fresh Food Markets in Nutrition and Food Safety

February 24, 2021 FSIL Webinar Series

Jessie L. Vipham, Assistant Professor, Kansas State University



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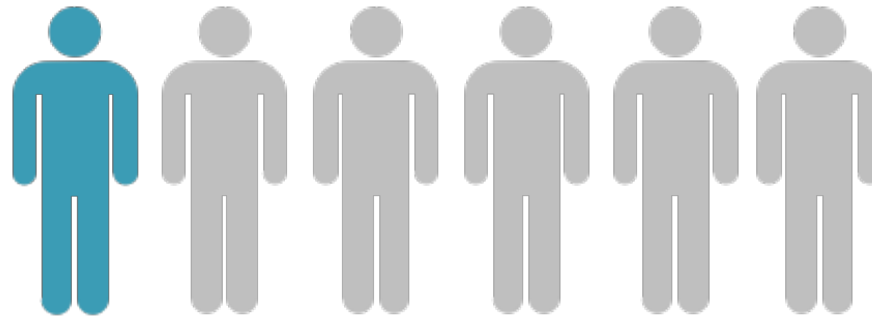




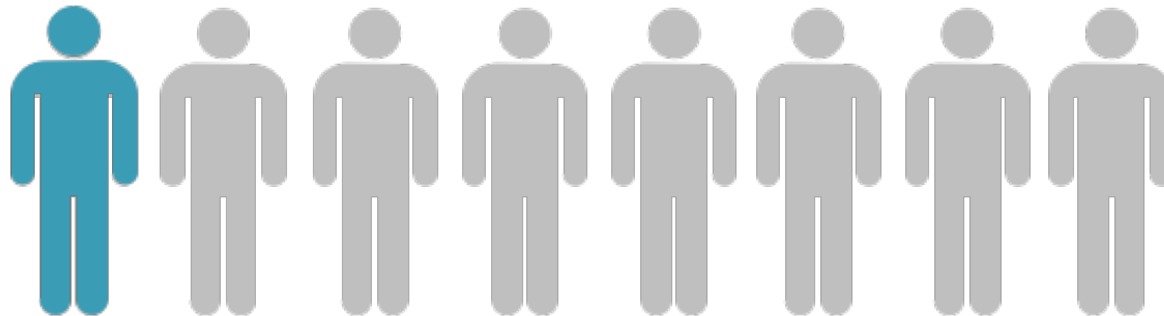
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## THE NEXUS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND FOOD SAFETY



1 in 5  
people are food  
insecure



1 in 8  
people suffer  
foodborne illness



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## THE NEXUS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND FOOD SAFETY



Food **insecure**  
and the  
available food  
is **unsafe**



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## NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR ALL



- Global nutrition initiatives encourage the consumption of nutrient rich foods.
- Fresh food markets can provide physical access to locally available, nutritious foods.
- Nutrient rich foods (animal source foods/raw fruits and vegetables) are common high-risk foods in terms of food safety.
- Fresh food markets commonly lack basic food safety handling practices, sanitation, and infrastructure.



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## Lessons Learned: Findings on Non-typhoidal *Salmonella enterica* from Fresh Food Markets in Cambodia



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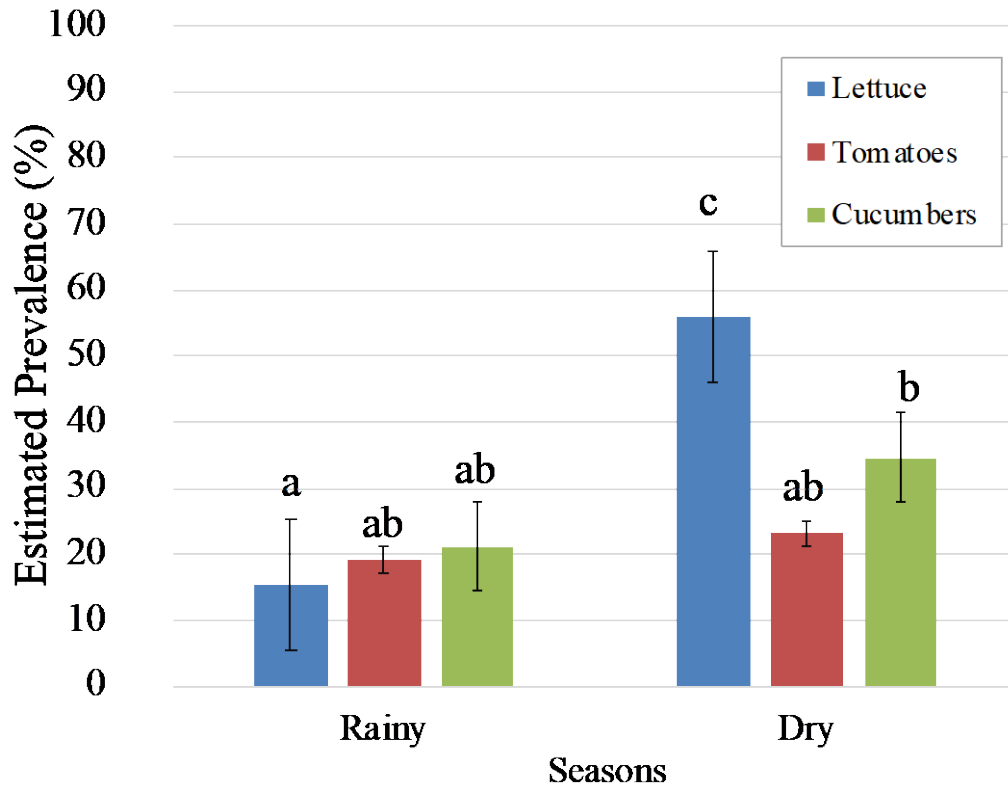


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## Prevalence of *Salmonella enterica* from Vegetable Samples

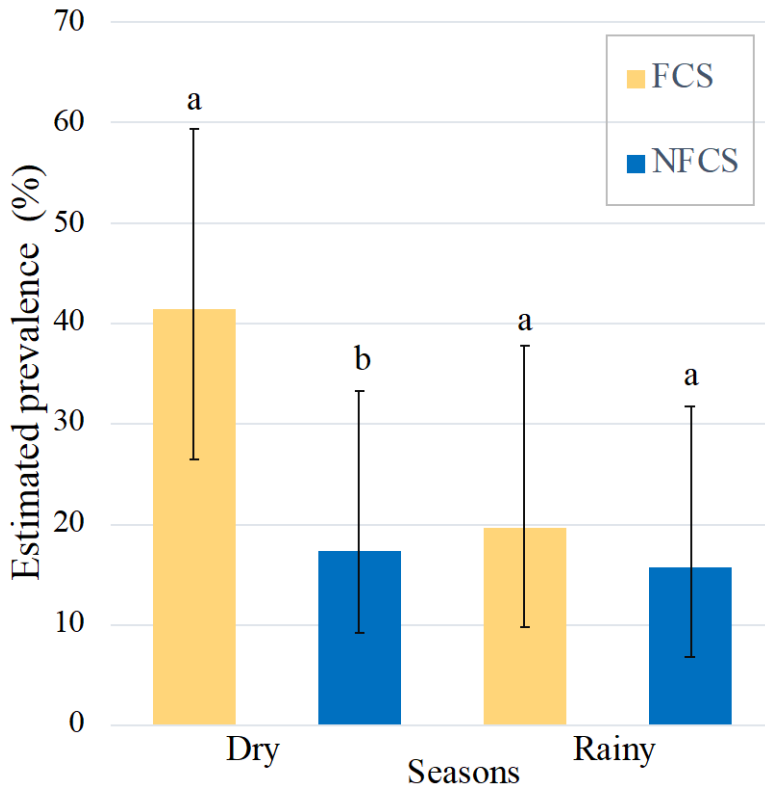


- *Salmonella* was isolated from 28.2% of total samples (312).
- Fresh food markets are the final point in the value-chain before raw vegetables reach consumers.
- Consumption of contaminated raw vegetables pose a risk to human health.

Figure 1. Prevalence of *Salmonella enterica* on vegetables sold in Cambodian informal markets collected at two different seasons. Different letters indicate significant differences between groups ( $P < 0.05$ ).

Desiree K, Schwan C.L., L. V, Hok L, Bello N.M., Nwadike L, Phebus R.K., Vipham J.L. Investigating *Salmonella enterica*, generic *Escherichia coli* (E. coli) and Coliforms on Fresh Vegetables Sold in Informal Markets in Cambodia. *J Food Prot.* 2020 Dec 15. doi: 10.4315/JFP-20-219. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33320940.

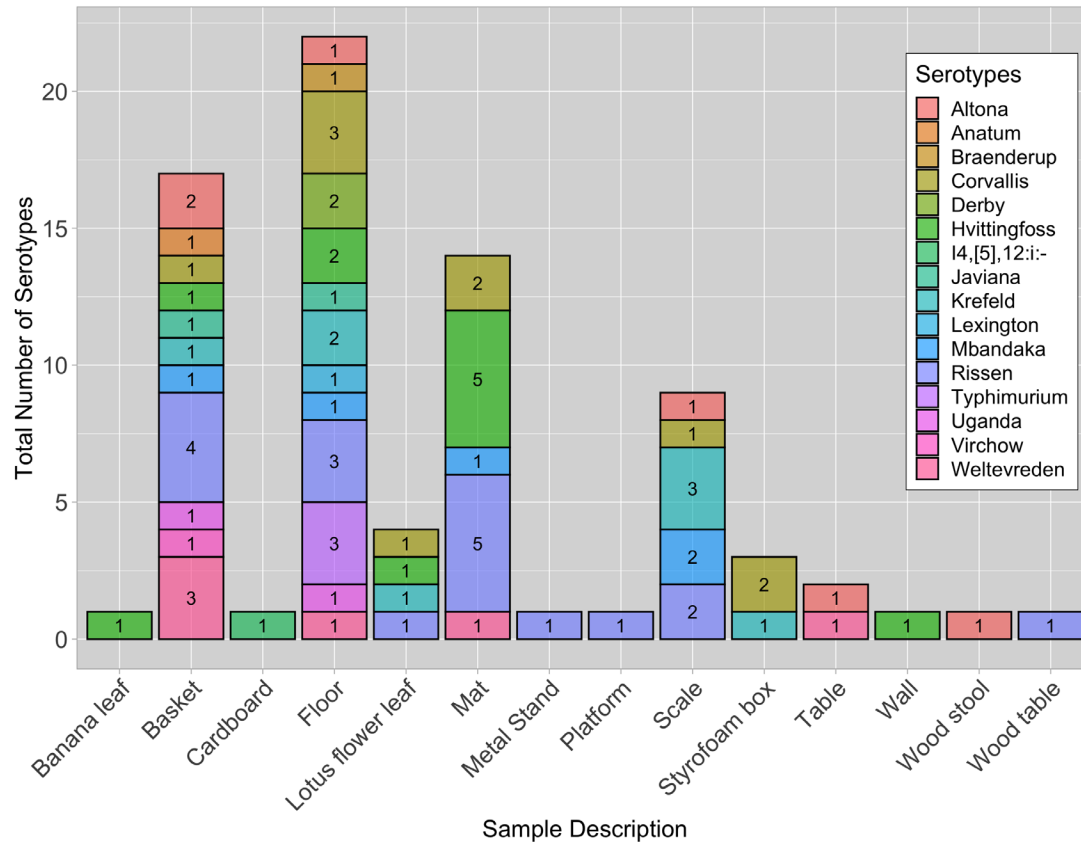




- *Salmonella* was isolated from multiple market surfaces.
- Seasonal data mimicked vegetable-level data, with the highest prevalence being observed on food contact surfaces in the dry season.
- Market conditions and environmental surface data suggests a high potential for cross-contamination within markets.

Figure 2. Estimated prevalence of *Salmonella enterica* (and corresponding 95% confidence intervals) on food contact surfaces (FCS) and non-food-contact surfaces (NFCS) during dry and rainy seasons. (a,b). Letters indicate significant differences between surface types within each season at alpha = 0.05.

Schwan, C.L., K. Desiree, N. M. Bello, L. Bastos, L. Hok, R. K. Phebus, S. Gragg, J. Kastner, and J. L. Vipham. "Prevalence of *Salmonella Enterica* Isolated from Food Contact and Non-Food Contact Surfaces in Cambodian Informal Markets." *Journal of Food Protection*, August 27, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.4315/JFP-20-112>.



- High serotype and surface type diversity may suggest multiple points of contamination.
- *Salmonella* Rissen, *Salmonella* Hvittingfoss, and *Salmonella* Corvallis were the most prevalent serotypes.
- *Salmonella* Corvallis has been isolated from clinical samples of multiple patients with travel history to South East Asia (United Kingdom, Japan, U.S. and Thailand).

Figure 3. Diversity of the 16 serotypes of *Salmonella enterica* detected in various sample types.



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## But do they cause disease?



13 SNPs

Source: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pathogens/isolates#/search/SAMN13322378>







## IS IT TIME FOR A *CLEAN REVOLUTION*?



Food safety provides strong opportunities for improved outcomes in public health and agriculture productivity. However, there is a need for future research and development initiatives to:

- Focus on sanitary design, sanitation and handling practices, and functional food safety networks.
- Promote holistic public health outcomes.
- Develop national technical experts, with an emphasis on data scientists.
- Invest in national surveillance and monitoring programs.



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## LINKING FOOD SAFETY WITH HEALTH AND NUTRITION: INSIGHTS AND PRIORITIES

### *Panel Discussion*



**Shanda Steimer**  
USAID Perspective on  
Food Safety and Nutrition



**Patrick Webb**  
Food Safety from a  
Nutrition Perspective



**Prabhu Pingali**  
Food Safety in the Indian  
Context



**Jessie Vipham**  
Fresh Food Markets in  
Nutrition and Food Safety



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# THANK YOU



**A link to the recording and presentations  
will be emailed to attendees next week**

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## **Next webinar:**

# Food Safety and Private Sector Partnerships

## March 16 9-10:30 EDT

▶ **Kelly Cormier**

USAID Center for Nutrition

▶ **Thoric Cederstrom**

Food Enterprise Solutions

▶ **Greg Grothe**

Land O'Lakes Venture 37

▶ **Howard Popoola**

Kroger



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